

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Joint Application of Verizon Communications Inc. ("Verizon") and MCI, Inc. ("MCI") to Transfer Control of MCI's California Utility Subsidiaries to Verizon, Which Will Occur Indirectly as a Result of Verizon's Acquisition of MCI.

Application 05-04-020
(Filed April 21, 2005)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING
ON MOTION TO SHORTEN TIME TO RESPOND**

Pursuant to Rule 45 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) on September 28, 2005, filed a "Motion Seeking Compliance With Rule 6.5(b) on Changes to the Determination of the Need for Hearings and Full Commission Review of Legal Conclusions in the September 19, 2005 Assigned Commissioner's Ruling." On the same day, ORA filed its Motion to Shorten Time to Respond to Friday, September 30, 2005, instead of the 15-day response time contemplated in Rule 45(f).

The parties have been notified by electronic mail that the Motion to Shorten Time to Respond has been denied in part and granted in part. This ruling memorializes that electronic notification. ORA's request for a response by September 30 is denied. Instead, parties desiring to respond to ORA's substantive motion are directed to do so within 10 business days of the date that the revised ORA motions were filed. Because of the Columbus Day holiday, this means that responses will be due by close of business Tuesday, October 11, 2005.

IT IS RULED that the motion of the Office of Ratepayer Advocates to shorten time to respond to its "Motion Seeking Compliance With Rule 6.5(b) on Changes to the Determination of the Need for Hearings and Full Commission

Review of Legal Conclusions in the September 19, 2005 Assigned Commissioner's Ruling" is denied in part and granted in part. Responses to the substantive motion may be filed on or before Tuesday, October 11, 2005.

Dated September 30, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ SUSAN P. KENNEDY

Susan P. Kennedy
Assigned Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of “Assigned Commissioner’s Ruling on Motion to Shorten Time to Respond” in A.05-04-020 by using the following service:

[X] **E-Mail Service:** sending the entire document as an attachment to an e-mail message to all known parties of record to this proceeding who provided electronic mail addresses.

[X] **U.S. Mail Service:** mailing by first-class mail with postage prepaid to all known parties of record.

Executed on September 30, 2005 at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER V. MEI

Christopher V. Mei

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission’s policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074 or TDD# (415) 703-2032 five working days in advance of the event.